Yukikaze
White Wind:
The Legend of Meiji Era Martial Arts
YOU WANT US TO KILL KOTARO ...?
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LIEUTENANT GENERAL GONNOHYOE NIINUMA...
I FOUND OUT QUITE A LOT ABOUT KOTARO WHEN I RESEARCHED HIM.
HOW HE BETRAYED THE SATSUMA ARMY IN THE SATSUMA REBELLION...
...
KOTARO YUKI-MURA...
...IS...

THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS

...A DEMON.

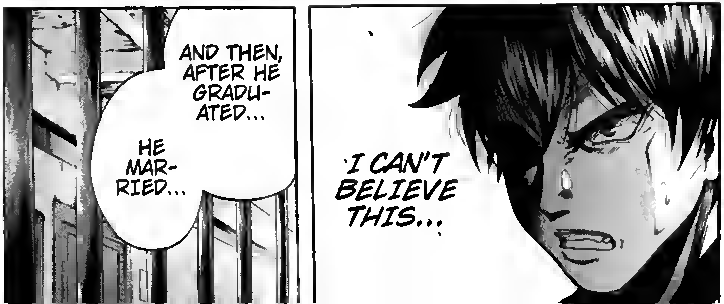
WHEN KOTARO WAS IN THE ARMY OFFICER'S ACADEMY...
陸軍士官學校
"ARMY OFFICER'S ACADEMY"
...HE HAD A GOOD FRIEND NAMED YAMA-GUCHI...
...WHO WAS IN HIS SAME GRADE.

THE TWO OF THEM WERE THE TOP OF THEIR CLASS, THE BEST STUDENTS IN THE ENTIRE SCHOOL.
IT WAS EVEN SAID THAT THEY WOULD SOMEDAY CARRY THE IMPERIAL ARMY ON THEIR SHOULDERS
BUT ONE NIGHT... THERE WAS AN INCI-DENT.
SOMEONE ATTACKED THE TWO OF THEM...
...AND THEY WERE FOUND IN A SEA OF BLOOD.
YAMA-GUCHI WAS DEAD...
...AND KOTARO HAD BEEN STABBED MULTIPLE TIMES.

KOTARO, WHO ESCAPED DEATH...
SPOKE IN FRONT OF Y. MAGUCHI'S GRAVE.
YAMAGUCHI!! I WILL DEFINITELY AVENGE YOU...!!
THEREAFTER...
KOTARO GRADUATED AT THE TOP OF HIS CLASS.
HOWEVER ...
...THE TRUTH IS KOTARO WAS THE ONE WHO KILLED YAMAGUCHI!!

HE PRETENDED THAT HE, TOO, WAS A VICTIM IN ORDER TO DEFLECT SUSPICION FROM HIMSELF.
HE STABBED HIM-SELF.
THOUGH HE AVOIDED VITAL AREAS.

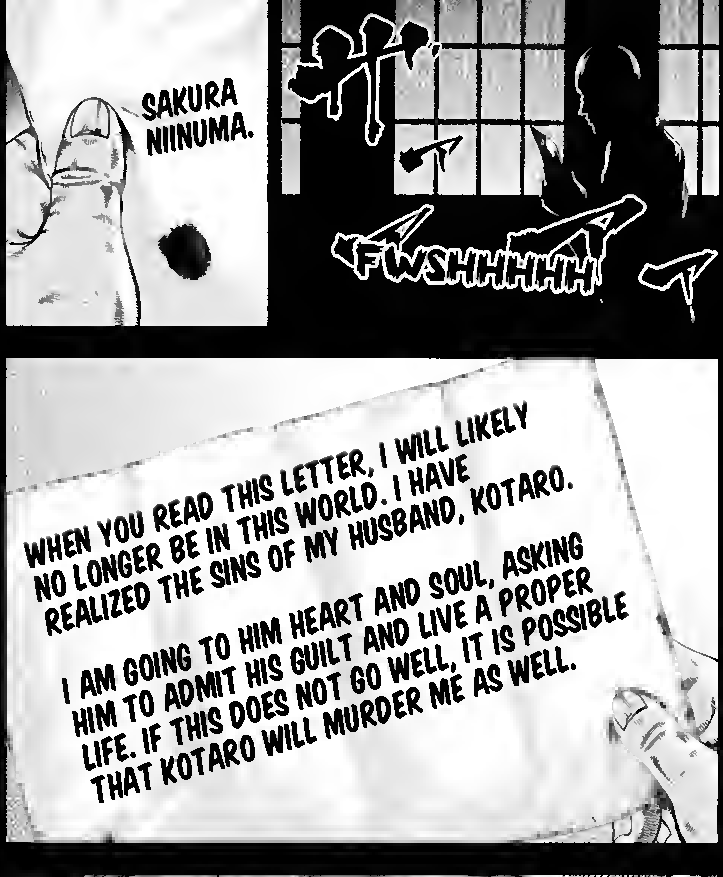
HE DESIRED THE TOP POSITION AT THE ACADEMY SO BADLY THAT HE MURDERED YAMAGUCHI.
NOT TO MENTION...
...HIS RUSE MADE HIM THE HERO OF THE TRAGEDY IN THE END!


AND THEN, AFTER HE GRADU-ATED...
HE MAR-RIED...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...

...MY DAUGHTER, SAKURA, AND BECAME MY SON-IN-LAW.
SAKURA WAS THE CLOSEST TO HIM, SO SHE WAS THE ONE WHO FIRST REALIZED...
...THE SCOPE OF HIS TERRIBLE AMBITIONS.
FA-THER ...
HIS EYES... THEY LOOK AS THOUGH HE IS THINKING OF HORRIBLE THINGS...
I FEAR KOTARO...
HOW-EVER...
AT THAT TIME, I WAS NOT SUSPICIOUS OF KOTARO, AND I DID NOT HEED SAKURA'S WORDS.

THEN SAKURA FOUND IT...
...UNMISTAKABLE PROOF OF THE MURDERS KOTARO HAD COMMITTED TO FURTHER HIS AMBITIONS.
KOTARO ...
PLEASE, YOU MUST TURN YOURSELF IN, I BEG OF YOU!!

!!
GRAB
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY, SAKURA.
KOTARO ...
KO-TARO ...
ST...
SAKU-RA...
KRCK
KRCK
FOR-GIVE ME...



WHEN YOU READ THIS LETTER, I WILL LIKELY NO LONGER BE IN THIS WORLD. I HAVE REALIZED THE SINS OF MY HUSBAND, KOTARO.

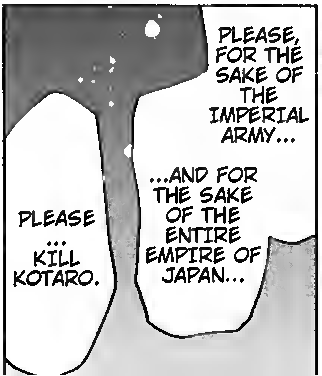
I AM GOING TO HIM HEART AND SOUL, ASKING HIM TO ADMIT HIS GUILT AND LIVE A PROPER LIFE. IF THIS DOES NOT GO WELL, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT KOTARO WILL MURDER ME AS WELL.

...WAS FILLED WITH HER FEAR AS WELL AS HER RESOLVE.

THE LETTER I FOUND WITH THE PERSONAL BELONGINGS SHE LEFT BEHIND...

Plip
...IT IS POSSIBLE THAT KOTARO WILL MURDER ME AS WELL.
Plip

THE ONLY THING THAT DRIVES KOTARO TO ACT...
...IS AN OVER-POWERING DESIRE TO RULE.


PLEASE, FOR THE SAKE OF THE IMPERIAL ARMY...
...AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE ENTIRE EMPIRE OF JAPAN...
PLEASE ... KILL KOTARO.

HIS ULTIMATE WISH IS OBVIOUSLY...
...TO DO AS HE WISHES WITH THIS COUNTRY AND ALL THE PEOPLE IN IT.

TAKE REVENGE FOR MY DAUGH-TER...!!

USING MY PLANS ...
BUT WHERE AND HOW?
KILL HIM...
...I WILL BREAK YOU ALL OUT OF PRISON!!
!!

ONE WEEK FROM TODAY...

THE SEVEN OF YOU...
...WILL DELIVER A NIGHT ATTACK ON THE TOKYO GARRISON OF THE FIRST DIVISION OF THE IMPERIAL ARMY!!
To be Continued!!